

The Listening Post
Kentucky Talking Book Library Newsletter
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives
Kentucky Talking Book Library
300 Coffee Tree Road
Frankfort, KY 40601
1-800-372-2968



Number 39
Spring 2005

A New Look!

It's Spring of a new year and time for a new look for The Listening Post. From the survey results several of you indicated that you did not receive the newsletter. We realized that you may not have known that the newsletter had a name.

So, welcome to The Listening Post, the Kentucky Talking Book Library Newsletter. We hope you find it to be informative as well as entertaining. Each quarter we will try to present information that will be useful for that particular time of the year. Let us know what you think of the new format. We would appreciate any suggestions to make the newsletter more interesting.

Nancy Wilson Retires

In November, 2004, after 23 years of service to KTBL, Nancy Wilson decided to leave her position as Program Coordinator and pursue other interests.

Nancy started in Talking Books on February 2, 1981, as a senior clerk typist. Her duties were maintaining the magazine program for the Talking Book Library. This included sending out any magazines that were duplicated at the Library. Some of her happiest experiences were when she talked to patrons, be it on the phone or in person, about their service.

Nancy got involved in the volunteer program when a previous monitor left and the position was not going to be filled. Nancy's

supervisor asked her to give monitoring a try and she's been monitoring ever since! She became Program Coordinator of the Volunteer Recording Program upon the retirement of Betsy Conner.

Even though Nancy decided to leave KTBL, she has been able to stay part of the volunteer program by being a volunteer monitor three days a week. According to Nancy, "To be able to provide reading material to those unable to use standard print or hold the reading material is a priceless service that I am proud to participate in."

Patron Survey Results

We included a patron survey in the last newsletter and received over 370 responses. Thank you for taking the time to respond. We have compiled the results and will address some of the problems you noted here and in future newsletters.

We found out that over 250 of you have VCR's, but only 30 are receiving descriptive videos. If you are interested in receiving DVS service, please call Greta. (See next page for more DVS information.)

Almost half of you have access to a computer, but only 36 ever use a computer to contact us. While we love to hear from you on the phone or by mail, you are more than welcome to e-mail us with requests or problems. A list of all the e-mail addresses is included at the end of this newsletter.

Some of the concerns you listed are:

- Do not like selected books/do not receive requested books. If you find that you do not like the books we are selecting for you, contact your librarian to discuss your reading preferences. If you are not receiving the books you want, perhaps there is a waiting list for those particular books. Contact your librarian for suggestions.
- TBT's. If you are having difficulty reading the Talking Books Topics, you may request to receive it on cassette tape, in Braille, or via email.
- The Listening Post. If you are unable to read the newsletter, you may request it on cassette tape or in Braille or via e-mail.
- Book Series. Some of you said that you do not like getting books in a series out of order. NLS is working on correcting our system to select the books in the correct order for you.
- Defective Books. From the survey we found that the biggest complaint you had was about the condition of the books you receive. We realize it is frustrating to be unable to read a book because of damaged or

missing tapes. Unfortunately, we simply do not have enough staff to inspect our incoming books. Each day we ship out anywhere from 300-600 books, and we check in the same amount. This takes most of the day for our circulation staff. They just do not have the 2-3 hours it would take to check each incoming book. We do not have a solution to this problem, but we suggest that you call us anytime you receive a book with missing or damaged tapes. In some cases, we can correct the problem over the phone; otherwise we can send you another copy of the book so you can finish your story.

DVS Information

Descriptive videos are movies on video that carefully describe the visual elements which include the action, characters, locations, costumes and sets. There is no interference with the movie's dialogue or sound effects so you can follow all the action. To enjoy these movies, you need a VHS video cassette recorder and a television. (KTBL does not provide equipment for this service.)

If you are interested in this service or want more information, please call Greta. She will be happy to explain the service in more detail and send you an application.

Recent additions to our video collection are:

DVS 70656 – Cheaper by the Dozen PG
DVS 70657 – Mystic River R
DVS 70658 – Cold Mountain R
DVS 70659 – Nova: Why the Towers Fell
DVS 70660 – Peter Pan PG
DVS 70661 – Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat PG
DVS 70662 – The Passion of the Christ R
DVS 70663 – Shrek 2 PG
DVS 70664 – Raising Helen PG-13
DVS 70665 – Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban PG
DVS 70666 – The Terminal PG-13
DVS 70667 – The Last Samurai R

Magazine Information

If you are interested in receiving magazines, we have close to 100 titles to choose from. Most of these are National magazines. You do not need to return these magazines and they are provided free of charge. Contact Greta for magazine information.

There are a few important guidelines you need to follow when you order magazines:

Reader's Digest and Newsweek magazines are produced and circulated by the American Printing House for the Blind and must be ordered by Greta. Once a year you will receive a letter from the Printing House requesting a donation. You DO NOT have to make a donation. However, you MUST return the letter to keep you subscription active. If you do not return the letter, the magazines will stop coming to you. Greta will have to re-order them and you may miss some issues.

Guideposts is our largest circulated publication. It is a non-sectarian inspirational magazine that contains materials for Christian and Jewish audiences. The magazine is published monthly and is distributed by KTBL. There is no need to return this magazine to our library.

There are several magazines recorded and sent to you from KTBL. These include:

Back Home in Kentucky

Cat's Pause

Kentucky Living

Kentucky Monthly

Kentucky Afield (coming soon)

The KTBL magazines come in a container similar to the tape cases you receive your books in. These magazines MUST be returned to the address printed on the return-address card found on the outside of the container. If you do not return an issue, you will not receive the next one.

A simple way to remember this rule is if there is a card that can be removed and turned over, send the magazine back to us. If the card cannot easily be removed, you may keep the magazine.

Thank You

Contributions to our program, whether large or small, make a difference to us. Our Descriptive Video collection is funded entirely by donations. Donations have also helped us purchase or repair equipment such as tape duplicators and special printers. Thank you all for your generosity.

In memory of Charles E. Creekmur:

Pennyrile 56ers

Weight Watchers/Hopkinsville

Mildred Maxey

Barbara Ison

Fred S. Porter
Anne P. Kirkpatrick
Kent and Juanita Richmond
James and Doris Pace
Rodney, Lois and Susan Miller
John C. and Judi Royalty
Thelma Caudill
John and Betty Ramey
Billie Harmon
Marjorie Osterdahl
Eunice Clark
Ogle and Bobbie Oxford
Jim and Judith Cress
Betty Woodlee for Beatrice Day
Julia C. Stone

If you would like to contribute to KTBL, please make your check or money order payable to the Kentucky Talking Book Library, P O Box 818, Frankfort, KY 40602-0818. PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH THROUGH THE MAIL. Donations are 100% tax deductible and appreciated by the patrons who use our service.

Dates to Remember

The Talking Book Library will be closed on the following days:

May 30: Memorial Day
July 4: Independence Day
September 5: Labor Day

KTBL holds a staff meeting once a month for about an hour and a half. All calls are transferred to voice mail. If you call during that time, you will get a recorded greeting. Please leave a message and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Bible Information

If you want a Bible to use online (not down-loaded to your computer), you may go to www.biblegateway.com. Eighteen different English translations of the Bible are there. A powerful "Advanced Search" allows you to look up a verse or passage, or to search for specific words phrases, or something you vaguely remember. Several audio versions (KJV and NIV) are available by clicking the "Listen to This" button. Versions include NIV, KJV, The Message, et.al. In addition, the site offers commentaries and other resources that also work extremely well with screen readers.

Things to Remember

- KTBL's toll-free phone number is 1-800-372-2968. Our local phone number is 502-564-8300, ext. 276.
- Please make sure your name and address are on ALL correspondence. This is especially important for request lists, particularly Braille requests. We hate to throw away lists because we don't know who they are from.
- When you finish reading a book, please return it. Do not loan it to anyone else. The prompt return of books insures that new books will continue to arrive regularly.
- Do not wait until you are out of books to call the library with requests. If you give us a list of 30-40 books once a month or so, it will usually be enough to hold most readers and you will not end up without books.
- When you call KTBL and are connected to voice mail, it is because we are in a meeting or otherwise unable to take your call, or are closed. If you get a voice mail recording, please leave a message. Speak slowly and include your name (spelling the last name) and phone number. Please do not leave lengthy request lists or long messages on the voice mail. Please just state the reason you are calling and we will return your call as soon as possible.
- If a tape is damaged, place a rubber band around the damaged cassette and put an "x" on the mail card. Do not put string or rubber bands around the plastic mailing containers as they get caught in postal equipment. Do not put notes in the mailing containers.
- Call us when you want to make any changes in your service or your mailing information.
- If you have a problem with your cassette player, call us before you return it for repair. If you do return a cassette player for repair, please put a note inside the box with your name, address, phone number, and a brief description of the problem you are having.
- Refusal to accept any library-related mail will result in the interruption of your regular library service. Refused mail results in automatic suspension from our mailing lists.
- Our staff receives an enormous amount of e-mail. It would help us serve you better if you put "KTBL Patron" in the subject line.

- Please keep all food and drink away from your cassette player. Dirt and liquid can damage the electronic components inside cassette players. Use an all-purpose cleaner and a soft cloth to clean the outside of your player.
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SUMMER FUN

On the Road Again

Want to take your cassette player on a road trip? The rechargeable battery is good for several hours. But then what? Most auto parts stores and some discount stores sell a converter for about \$25.00 that plugs into a car's cigarette lighter. Your cassette player or any other electrical device can then be plugged into the converter.

Baseball Season Is Here

Spring ushers in the baseball season, and once again we will offer both the American and National League Baseball schedules in Braille. If you are interested in receiving a copy, please call Greta.

Kentucky Lions Youth Camp

The Kentucky Lions Youth Camp for the Blind/Vision Impaired will be held Sunday, July 3rd through Saturday, July 9th, 2005 at Lions Camp Crescendo in Lebanon Junction, Kentucky. The camp is FREE to Kentucky residents. Youth must be between the ages of eight and fifteen years old. The camp is made possible by the support and donations of the Lions of Kentucky. Both boys and girls are eligible. For more information contact Cecil W. Warner, Director, KY Lions Youth Camp, 626 Colonial Trace, Frankfort, KY 40601-1329, telephone 502-223-8514 or e-mail cwarner@mis.net.

Summer Reading Program

Dragons, Dreams, and Daring Deeds is the statewide summer reading theme for 2005. To help young readers maintain their reading skills while on vacation, public libraries will be scheduling exciting activities featuring medieval history topics and fantasy literature. Participants will dream of times long ago, read terrific tales of daring and adventure, and enjoy activities filled with magic and merriment, dragons, castles, knights, and fun! KTBL can supply you with books to read, but we encourage our younger patrons to participate in the fun at their local public library. Call

your librarian to sign up and receive your free gifts; you may even win a special prize for reading the most talking books!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Our mailing address will be changing to:

Kentucky Talking Book Library
P O Box 537
Frankfort, KY 40602-0537

This change will take place effective July 1, 2005.

You may contact us by e-mail

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Lee Logan, Secretary, Talking Book Library
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Paula Ernsperger, Volunteer Coordinator
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Wendy Hatfield, Librarian (P-Z)
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Chris Payne, Librarian (G-O)
christine.payne@ky.gov

Barbara Penegor, Librarian (A-F)
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Greta Wise, Magazine & Video Clerk
greta.wise@ky.gov